

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 13, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

a safe assembly including a safe for securing cash and a currency reader coupled to the safe for determining the amount of cash received in the safe;

B3
a central control unit [~~configured to receive~~] which receives deposit information from the safe assembly and [~~to generate and transmit~~] generates and transmits deposit reports, and [~~transmit~~] updates and transmits identifiers that distinguish deposit information accumulated during an accounting period before a predetermined event and deposit information accumulated during the accounting period after the predetermined event; and

a cash information server configured to receive the deposit information and identifiers from the central control unit and to identify the amount of cash collected by the business establishment during the accounting period.

2. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a printer with a bar code generator coupled to the central control unit.

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 13, 2003

3. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a MICR line reader coupled to the central control unit to read MICR line information, the central control unit configured to transmit the MICR line information to the cash information server.

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4. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising at least one additional safe assembly including a safe for securing cash and a currency reader coupled to the safe for determining the amount of cash received in the safe and wherein the central control unit is configured to receive deposit information from the additional safe assembly and transmit deposit reports to the cash information server containing deposit information received from the additional safe assembly.

5. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 wherein the safe is associated with a unique number which is included in the deposit reports transmitted by the central control unit.

6. (Original) The cash control system of claim 5 wherein the central control unit is configured to identify when the safe is opened and the cash stored in the safe is removed.

7. (Original) The cash control system of claim 6 wherein the identifiers are a sequence number and an alternate sequence number, wherein the central control unit is configured to adjust

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 13, 2003

the sequence number and the alternate sequence number based on cash being removed from the safe.

8. (Original) The cash control system of claim 7 wherein the accounting period is a business day as identified by a store manager.

B3

9. (Original) The cash control system of claim 8, wherein the predetermined event is the opening of the safe and the cash stored in the safe removed and wherein the central control unit is configured to change one of the sequence number and the alternate sequence number at the time cash is removed from the safe and to change the other of the sequence number and the alternate sequence number at the end of the business day.

10. (Original) The cash control system of claim 9 wherein the central control unit is configured to transmit a first deposit report that identifies deposit information for the business day up to the time of removal of cash from the safe and wherein the sequence number and alternate sequence number are different on the first deposit report and wherein the central control unit is configured to transmit a second deposit report that identifies deposit information for the business day starting from removal of cash from the safe and wherein the sequence number and the alternate sequence number are the same on the second deposit report.

11. (Canceled)

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Rply to Office action of August 13, 2003

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- 12. (Canceled)
 - 13. (Canceled)
 - 14. (Canceled)
 - 15. (Canceled)
 - 16. (Canceled)
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17. (New) A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

a safe assembly for collecting cash, and for determining deposit information based on the cash collected at the business establishment;

a central control unit for receiving the deposit information from the safe assembly, for updating a sequence number and an alternate sequence number, and for transmitting the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number, wherein the alternate sequence number is updated upon an occurrence of an armored car pickup; and

a cash information server for receiving the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number from the central control unit, and for identifying the amount of cash collected at the business establishment before and after the armored car pickup using the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number.

18. (New) The cash control system of claim 17, wherein the central control unit updates the sequence number at an end of a

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Reply to Offic action of August 13, 2003

business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the alternate sequence number.

19. (New) The cash control system of claim 18, wherein the alternate sequence number is incremented upon the occurrence of the armored car pickup, and the sequence number is incremented at the end of the business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the incremented alternate sequence number.

20. (New) The cash control system of claim 17, wherein the system generates a print-out that includes the deposit information, a store number, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number after the occurrence of the armored car pickup.

21. (New) A method of using a cash control system to monitor cash deposited and removed at a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the method comprising:

determining deposit information based on cash collected by a safe assembly at the business establishment;

receiving at a central control unit the deposit information;

updating at the central control unit an alternate sequence number to indicate an occurrence of an armored car pickup, such that the alternate sequence number becomes different from a sequence number;

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 13, 2003

transmitting the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number from the central control unit;

receiving at a cash information server the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number; and

identifying at the cash information server the amount of cash collected by the business establishment before and after the armored car pickup using the deposit information, the alternate sequence number and the sequence number.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising updating the sequence number at an end of a business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the updated alternate sequence number.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein updating the alternate sequence number comprises incrementing the alternate sequence number upon the occurrence of the armored car pickup, and

wherein updating the sequence number comprises incrementing the sequence number at the end of the business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the incremented alternate sequence number.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising generating a print-out that includes the deposit information, a

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 13, 2003

B4
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store number, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number after the occurrence of the armored car pickup.
